AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A communication method, having a protocol suitable for bi-directional Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) communications with media streams including audio and/or video data, and based on a real-time transport protocol (RTP) ~~as described~~ in Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Request for Comments (RFC) 1889, the method comprising:

exchanging ~~wherein~~ packets ~~mainly~~ comprised of a header part and a payload part ~~are exchanged~~ between at least two users~~, thus forming~~ to form a RTP channel~~, wherein~~; and

providing at least one sub-channel, which is embedded within the RTP channel, ~~said sub-channel being adapted~~ to carry command, signaling and/or information data.

2. (currently amended): The communication method ~~protocol~~ according to claim 1, wherein the header part of each packet comprises at least one extension bit in a predetermined place ~~whereby allowing~~ to provide one or several additional fields in the header or in a header extension of said packets, to carry said command, signaling and/or information data.

3. (currently amended): A method for operating a bi-directional Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) communication over an Internet Protocol (IP) network, based on a real-time

transport protocol (RTP) ~~as described for example~~ in Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Request For Comments (RFC) 1889, ~~wherein~~ the method comprising:

exchanging media streams including audio and/or video data ~~are exchanged~~, over a RTP channel, between at least two users, in the form of packets ~~mainly~~ comprised of a header part and a payload, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein additional command, signaling and/or information data is transmitted in both transmission directions through at least one sub-channel embedded within the RTP channel ~~and available in both transmission directions~~.

4. (currently amended): The method according to claim 3, wherein:

the header of each transmitted ~~packets~~packet comprises at least one extension bit in a predetermined place ~~whereby providing~~, and

one or several additional fields provided in the header or in a header extension of said packets ~~to~~ carry said command, signaling and/or information data.

5. (currently amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein:

providing additional field~~(s)~~ to carry said additional signaling data for transmission between users ~~consists, in relation to the IETF RFC 1899 protocol features and~~ for each transmitted packet, comprises ~~in~~ setting the marker bit ~~(M)~~ and the extension bit ~~(X)~~, ~~in~~ coding the payload type bits (PT) with the information of the user to user signals, and ~~in~~ providing a header extension following the normal RTP header, ~~and~~

the additional fields ~~comprising~~ comprise a profile indication field, a length indication field, a signaling type indication field and several bytes for receiving the additional data to be carried, and

the number of bytes ~~corresponding~~ correspond to the value of the content of the length indication field.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): A method according to claim ~~3~~4, wherein, upon reception of a RTP packet, the method further comprises analyzing the at least one extension bit in the header of the received packet, by a ~~the~~ communication terminal of the user on the reception side, ~~analyses the header, in particular the at least one extension bit, of the received packet and takes~~ to take into account the command, signaling and/or information data contained in the additional fields of said header or header extension.

8. (currently amended): A multimedia telecommunication terminal adapted to perform a bi-directional Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) communication based on a real-time transport protocol (RTP) ~~as described~~ in Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Request For Comments (RFC) 1889, ~~wherein~~ said terminal comprises: ~~means to carry out the method according to claim 3~~

means for exchanging media streams including audio and/or video data, over a RTP channel, between at least two users, in the form of packets comprised of a header part and a payload,

wherein additional command, signaling and/or information data is transmitted in both transmission directions through at least one sub-channel embedded within the RTP channel.